



A. *Existing Conditions and Trends*

This background information about transit, bicycling and walking in Lincoln and Lancaster County has been used as a basis for the preparation of the Multi-Modal Transportation Study final report to help enhance the use of alternative transportation modes. The sections of this chapter are as follows:

◆ Demographic Profile.....	B 3
◆ Travel Behavior	B 23
◆ Existing Transportation Services.....	B 29
◆ Existing Bicycle System.....	B 56
◆ Existing Pedestrian System	B 62
◆ Existing Land Use and Urban Form.....	B 64
◆ Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan.....	B 71
◆ Long-Range Transportation Plan	B 80
◆ Comparison with Similar Cities	B 83

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

This section profiles the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County. Several variables were examined, including population density, income, patterns of growth, and the location and concentration of transit-dependent populations. The location of major employment, retail, and social service centers were also identified. All of these variables have been shown to influence transit ridership. All data used in creation of the following were derived from the 2000 Census of Population and Housing, examined at the block level, and data provided by the City of Lincoln.

The purpose of this task is to evaluate changes in the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County's geographic, economic and residential characteristics to gain a sense of the transit-dependent populations by general location and the populations that could be converted to alternative modes.

Study Area Description

The City of Lincoln and Lancaster County lie within the Platte River Valley in southeastern Nebraska. The City of Lincoln serves as both the capital of the State of Nebraska and the seat of government for Lancaster County. The City and County's 250,000 residents comprise the second largest metropolitan area in the State. The broad southeastern Nebraska region is home to over one million people, including the greater Omaha urban area to the east.

Southeastern Nebraska is experiencing a growing sense of social, cultural, and economic interdependence. The Interstate 80 corridor in particular offers a major link between the State's two largest urban areas and the region as a whole. Strengthening ties between the two cities and surrounding rural communities will be integral to the region's future success.

Population and Population Density

The City of Lincoln has always been the heart of Lancaster County; growing from 82.8 percent of the population in 1960 to 90.1 percent of the population in 2000 (see Table 1). The City of Lincoln has experienced steady population growth since 1960 (see Table 1). The remainder of Lancaster County, on the other hand, has been more variable with decreases in population (1960s), slow growth (1980s) and significant growth (1970s and 1990s) (see Table 1).

Table 1. Historical Population Change Summary (1960-2050)

	City of Lincoln	Remainder of the County	Entire Lancaster County
1960	128,521	26,751	155,272
1970	149,518	18,454	167,972
1980	171,932	20,952	192,884
1990	191,972	21,669	213,641
2000	225,581	24,710	250,291
2025	327,306	35,853	363,159
2050	474,903	52,020	526,923

Source: City-County Comprehensive Plan

Lancaster County, as a whole, grew at an average annual rate of 0.79 percent in the 1960s, 1.39 percent in the 1970s, 1.03 percent in the 1980s, and 1.60 percent in the 1990s (see Figure 1). Lancaster County, as a whole, is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 1.50 percent from 2000 to 2050 (see Figure 1).

Lancaster County is 846 square miles in land area. The land area of the City of Lincoln has been increasing over time (see Figure 4). In recent history, the City of Lincoln has been adding approximately 32 square miles of land for every 100,000 population added, and is projecting to follow that trend into the future.

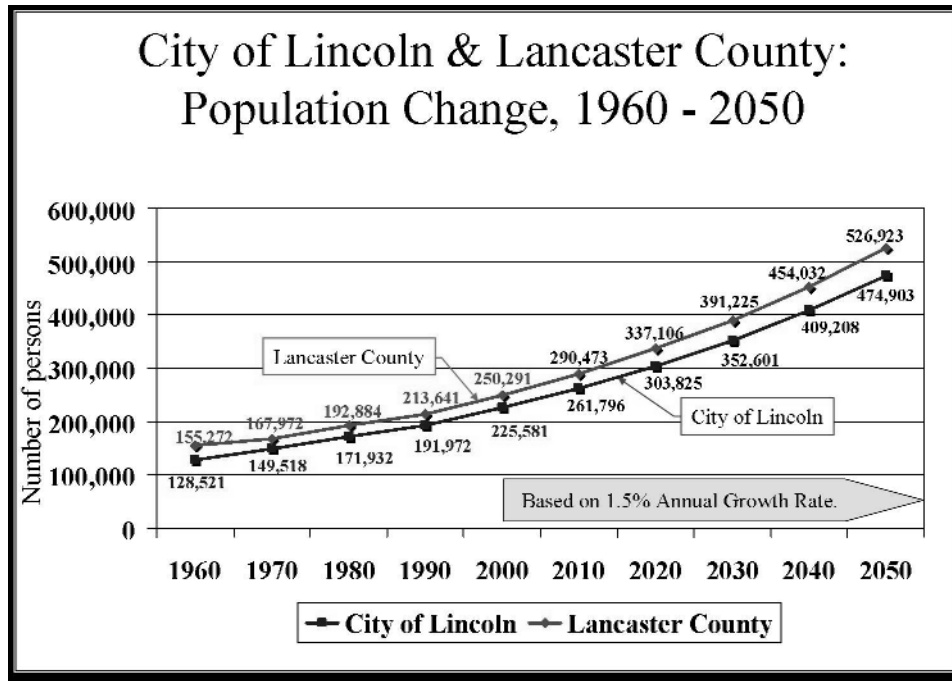
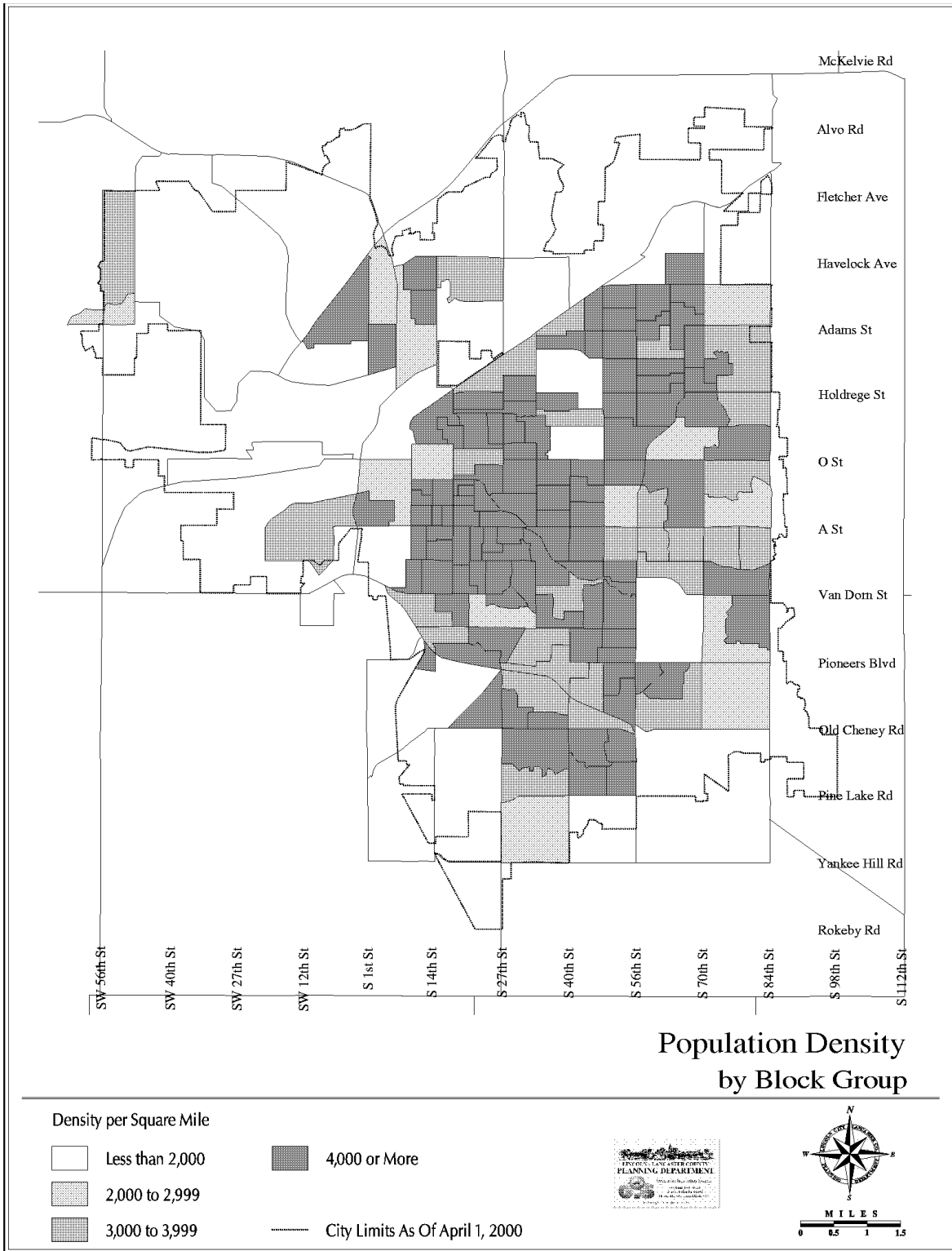


Figure 1. Historical Population Change (1960-2050)

Figure 2. Population Density (per Square Mile)



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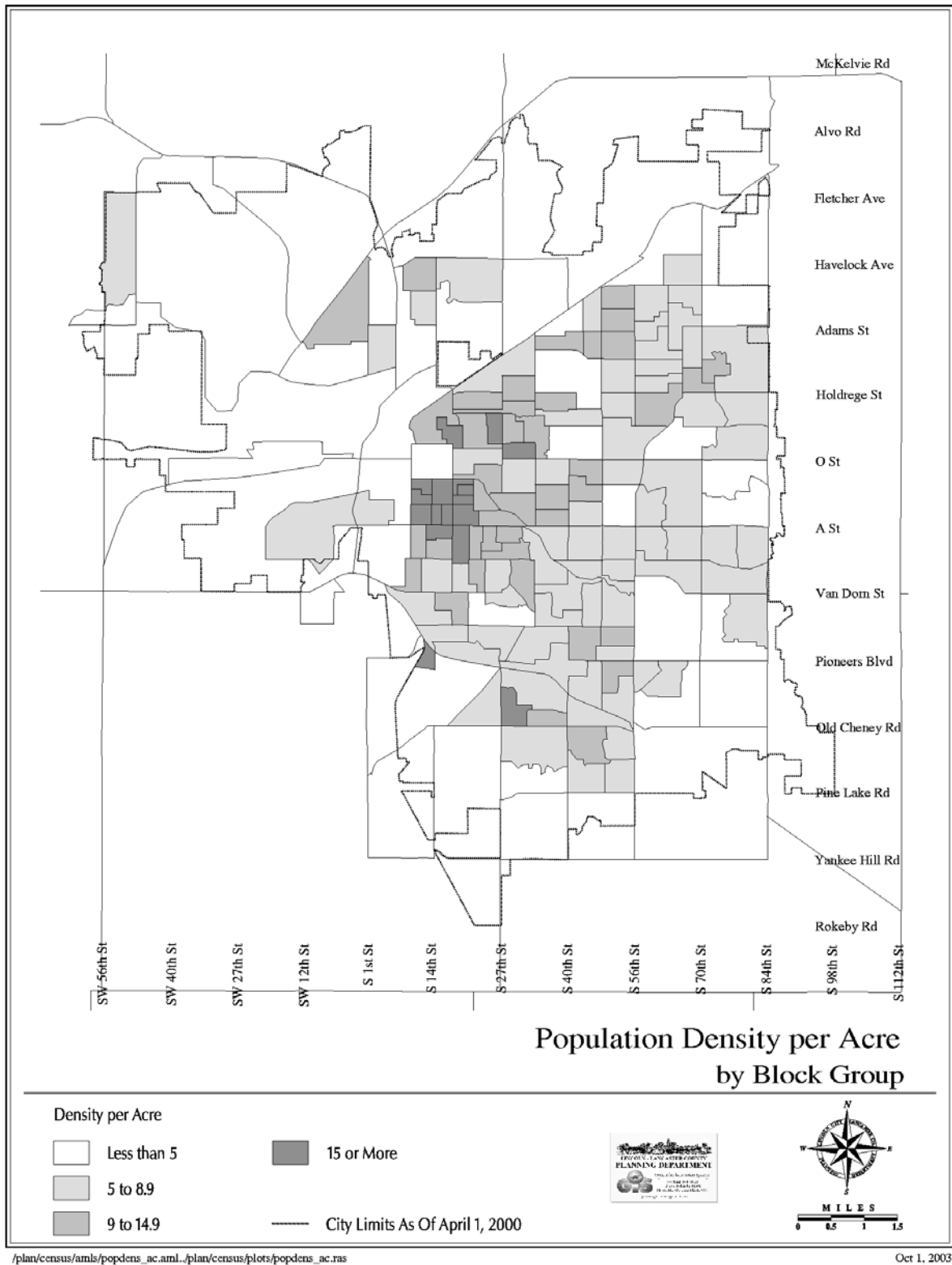
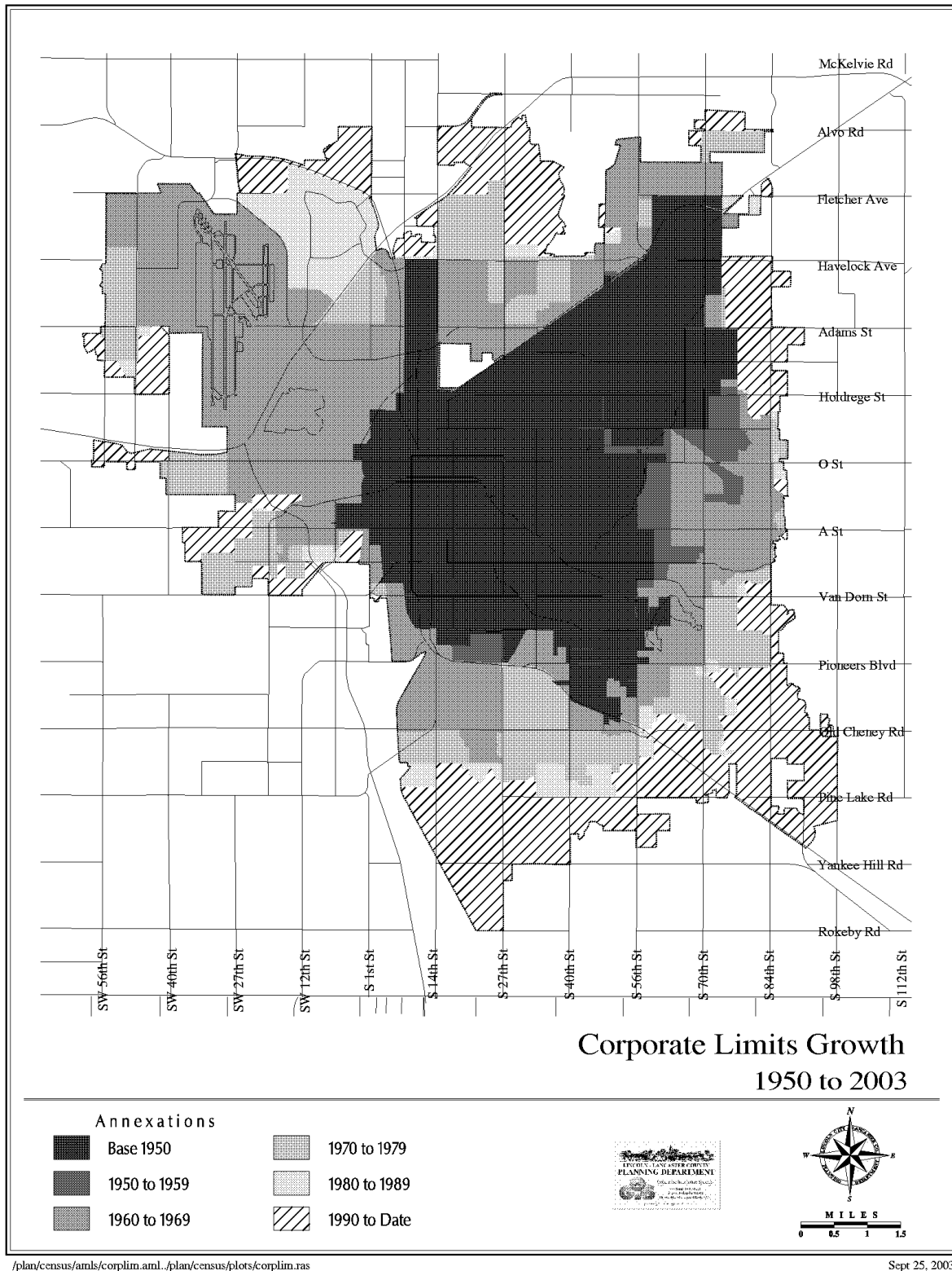
Figure 3. Population Density (per Acre)

Figure 4. Historical Land Area Change (1950-2003)





The City of Lincoln and County of Lancaster expect to experience significant growth in housing, and students over the next quarter century (see Table 2).

Table 2. County Development Change Summary (2001–2025)

	2001	2025	Percent Change
Single Family/Duplex	70,165 DUs	98,559 DUs	40.50%
Multi-Family	28,879 DUs	44,207 DUs	53.10%
Elementary	21,690 students	31,154 students	43.60%
Secondary	17,824 students	25,489 students	43.00%
Community College	7,070 students	7,989 students	13.00%
University/College	24,813 students	33,593 students	35.40%

Source: City-County Comprehensive Plan: 2001 & 2025 Development Base Data

Senior and Youth Populations

Age can directly impact mobility, and thus transit usage. Many senior citizens cannot afford an automobile, are physically unable to drive, or prefer not to drive. The youth population also contributes to transit ridership. Along with their limited resources, youth have to cope with age restrictions and competency testing before they may obtain a driver's license. This results in a significant percentage of youths who are mobility-limited and who consider transit as a primary transportation option.

According to the 2000 Census, approximately 20.7 percent of the population are youth (ages 5-19) and approximately 10.4 percent of the population are seniors (ages 65 and over) in the City of Lincoln. The City of Lincoln has experienced a steady growth in the youth population since 1960 while in contrast the City experienced a drop in its senior population between 1970 and 1980 (see Figure 5).

The City of Lincoln's youth population is concentrated in the downtown area as well as in the north and south of the city with some pockets in the far northwest (see Figure 6). The City of Lincoln's senior population is conversely concentrated primarily in areas where the youth population is not, that being the east with some overlap in the northeast and south (see Figure 7).

Minority Population

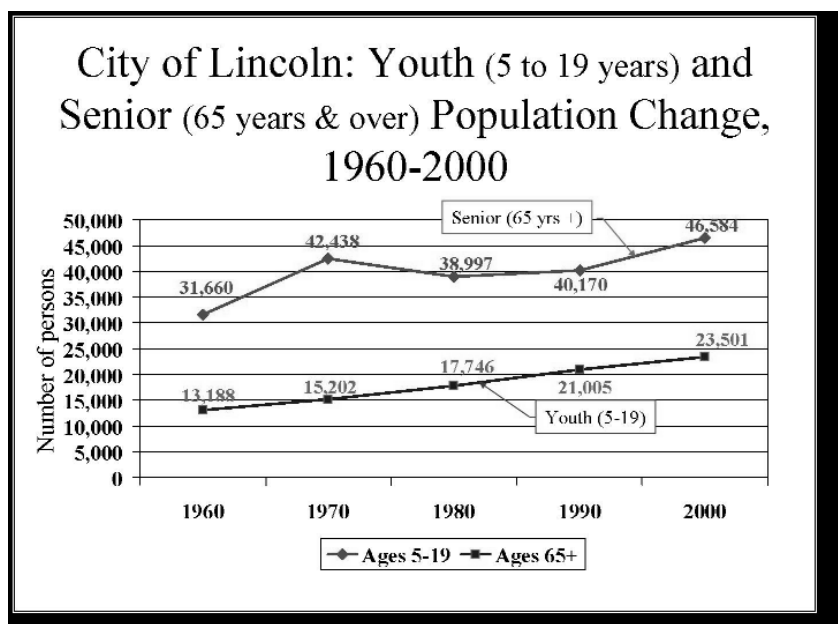
Most of the residents of the City of Lincoln (89.2%) and Lancaster County, as a whole, (90.1%) are white. The minority population of the county is concentrated in the City of Lincoln (see Table 3). Two-thirds of the Asian population in both the city and county are either Vietnamese or Chinese.

Table 3. Minority Population

	City of Lincoln		Remainder of the County		Entire Lancaster County	
Asian	7,048	3.1%	114	0.5%	7,162	2.9%
Black	6,960	3.1%	92	0.4%	7,052	2.8%
Other	4,081	1.8%	144	0.6%	4,225	1.7%
Total	225,581	100%	24,710	100%	250,291	100%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Figure 5. Senior & Youth Population Change (1960 – 2000)



Source: U.S. Census/City of Lincoln

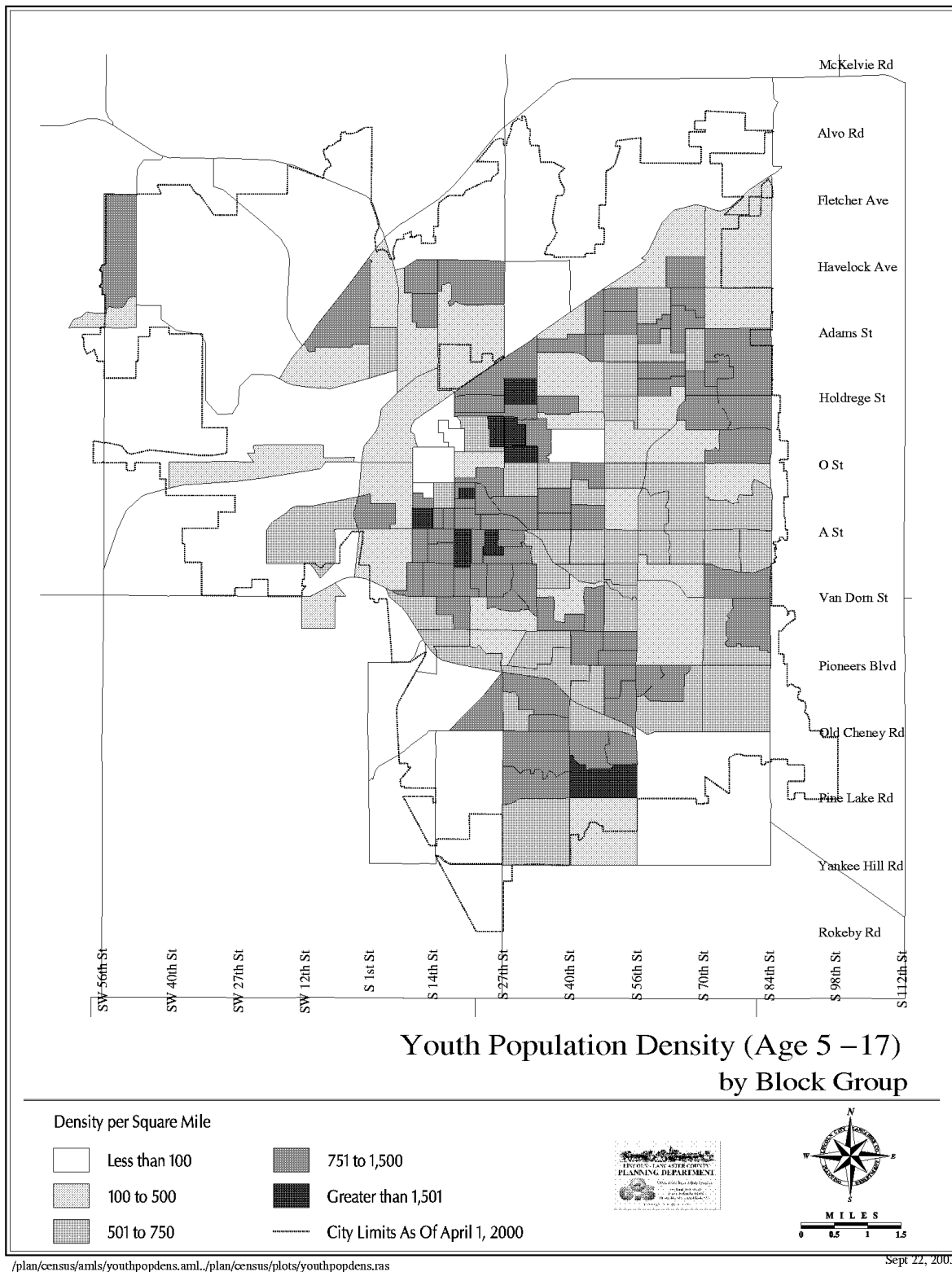
Figure 6. Youth Population Density (Ages 5-17)

Figure 7. Senior Population Density (Age 65 & Over)

